

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY	USSR (Chelyabinsk and Chkalov Oblasts)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Transportation and Security Information on Chelyabinsk, Kyshtym, Kasli Area. 2. Atomic Energy Installation near Kyshtym	DATE DISTR.	6 December 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1
This is UNEVALUATED Information			

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- Beginning in 1946, very heavy road and rail traffic was observed in the Chelyabinsk area (N55-10, E61-24). Steel rods of the type used in reinforced concrete construction were carried by rail. These rods were up to 15 meters in length, although the standard length did not exceed 5.8 meters. Diversified types of machinery, including giant mud excavators and all types of construction machinery, were shipped by rail into this area. Large quantities of cement shipped in bags were also seen. Truck drivers operating between Ufalet and Chelyabinsk stated that the railroad between the two places was overburdened, and that for this reason many commodities had to be shipped by road.
- Engineer troops worked on the construction of a telephone line extending from Kasli (N55-54, E60-46) to Chelyabinsk in the south. It was particularly noted that copper wire was used in this construction instead of the aluminum wire normally used.
- In 1948 - 1949, a single-track railroad was opened between Kasli and Chelyabinsk.
- In 1946, a new single-track railroad was being constructed from Kyshtym (N55-43, E60-34) to Kasli. Wooden ties were employed in the construction of the permanent railroad, the rails being attached to the ties with spikes. This railroad was put into operation during 1948 - 1949, at which time railroad tank cars were observed on the line.
- Large fuel tank installations were observed at Kasli. One of the fuel containers appeared to be a gasometer. Each of the smaller fuel tanks available there had a storage capacity of from 25,000 to 30,000 liters. Mobile platforms fitted with pumps to be used for the unloading of railroad tank cars stood on the station track.

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- 2 -

6. Between Kyshtym and Chelyabinsk, there was a restricted area which began near Kasli and extended toward the south beyond Kyshtym for about 60 kilometers. The east - west extension of the restricted area, the center of which was Kyshtym, was estimated at 45 kilometers. Many forced labor camps were observed in the woods of this area. The Kyshtym railroad station was cordoned off by Soviet soldiers, and only military personnel were observed leaving the passenger trains which stopped here. A number of ramps were built at this railroad station, and in May 1948, an SKS type crane (sic) was being erected here.
7. In the spring of 1948, the entire population, including all PWs and forced laborers, had to evacuate the Kyshtym restricted area. The population was replaced by Communists and their dependents who came to Kyshtym from all over the USSR. These latter were, reportedly, never to leave the area again. In the summer of 1948, no ordinary passenger was allowed to travel to Kyshtym by rail. The express trains to Chkalov (N51-46, E55-05) passed through the Kyshtym railroad station with their windows closed.<sup>1</sup>
8. Soviet convicts stated that extensive excavation work was being done under a lake located about ten kilometers east of Kyshtym. Huge quantities of cement, concrete mixing machines, and steel rods to be used for the reinforcement of concrete were being shipped to the construction site, where an atomic energy installation was, allegedly, under construction.
9. The northern boundary of the Kyshtym restricted area was about 30 kilometers east of Ufaley. Barbed wire fences two meters high were observed for many kilometers north and south of the Kyshtym railroad station on the east side of the railroad line. Observation towers were erected along this fence, which was believed to mark the western boundary of the Kyshtym restricted area. The population of Ufaley generally referred to the Kyshtym area as the "atomic restricted area". In February 1948, a woman from Ufaley stated that her son was working in the Kyshtym area and that he had told her during a recent visit that he would not be allowed henceforth to leave the restricted area again.

 Comment: Presumably, windows of the railroad cars were blacked out in order to prevent occupants of the cars from observing the restricted area.

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